

# Michael Wissot for California State Assembly Leadership over Politics

## *Message From the Candidate: Returning Fiscal Sanity to Sacramento*

In light of the current \$24 billion budget deficit in California, our representatives are currently locked in a debate over how to best to balance the budget in Sacramento. We have gone from a \$7 billion surplus in 1999 to a \$24 billion deficit in 2002. The super majority party's proposal for balancing the budget is a litany of taxes that places the onus on the people, not the elected representatives to solve their own budget crisis. While our elected representatives grossly mispend taxes we have already sent to them, they now ask for more, yet there is a better way...

The first tax proposed by the Democrats is an increase to the Vehicle Licensing Fee. Against strong opposition from the Republicans, Democrats traded that tax for new ones. The current plan is to levy a \$3 per pack tax on cigarettes and an undisclosed amount on satellite television subscribers for using satellite television. I am not a smoker, but last I checked cigarettes do not even cost 3 dollars per pack! Now smokers will be taxed more than the actual price of the product. It is tempting to say since we do not smoke, or do not have satellite television, that these taxes do not affect us, but unfortunately they do. Each of these "sin taxes" (although I am still trying to figure out why owning satellite television is a sin) is justified in Sacramento as killing two birds with one stone. Not only do we obtain tax revenue, but we can also help make citizens' lives better in the process. I think we can all agree that enough is enough. This is exactly what happens when you let too many like-minded individuals with a pre-20<sup>th</sup> century view of economics stay in power for too long. Proposals such as these do not solve the problem. In fact, they create a host of new problems.

The solution, although a radical proposal to the current elite in Sacramento, is to *cut* spending first, not raise taxes. It is popular for the pro-tax crowd to say that there is nothing left to cut and to do so would take services/funding away from children, elderly, and others who need our help. Well, don't you believe it. Let me share a brief list of where some of our taxpayer dollars have been going these past few years:

- \$160 Million earmarked for over 4000 vacant positions in the State Government
- \$41 Million spent on unneeded/unused software from the "no-bid" contract with Oracle
- \$15 Million to rehabilitate 6 expelled schoolchildren
- \$1 Million to pay for a two-time convicted felon to receive a heart transplant

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## *More Examples of Pork Barrel Spending*

- This year's budget creates 123 new government auditor positions in hopes of collecting more tax dollars, at a cost of **\$10.7 million** to taxpayers
- The state is allocating **\$6 million** for incentive grants to purchase electric cars, yet won't this simply add to the millions of dollars wasted by the Air Resources Board's proposal to have 10% of CA cars be electric by the 1990's?

For more information about our campaign, please visit our website at [www.wissot.com](http://www.wissot.com), or call us at (818) 674-9071, (805) 431-9071, or (310) 466-7363.

For contributions/literature, our office is located at: 23067 Ventura Boulevard Suite 103 Woodland Hills, CA 91364

## From the Campaign Trail...

You are welcome to join Michael at these upcoming events



Michael Deaver, Deputy Chief of Staff to President Ronald Reagan and Michael Wissot

**Date:** Wednesday, August 28  
**Time:** 9:30am to 11:30am  
**What:** Michael will be appearing at the Santa Monica Farmers Market. If you would like to tour the event with Michael, please call (310) 466-7363.

**Date:** Thursday, August 29th  
**Time:** 8:00 p.m.  
**What:** Grassroots Committee Meeting in Santa Monica, for more information about attending the event, please call (310) 466-7363.

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## *Continued: Message about Economy*

This list is only a snapshot of a history of indiscretions that elected representatives label as indispensable government expenditures.

None of us doubt that the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and the downturn in our economy have played a role in depressing our financial stability here in California. However, many of our elected officials have suggested that these are the ONLY factors that have brought us to our current financial state. Spending is clearly out of control, yet they continue to seek a solution that reaches further into our neighbors' wallets.

I hope each of you will join me in contacting our legislators in Sacramento to tell them this kind of fiscal management is unacceptable. California has a bright future. However, let's remove those from office who believe that reckless spending and raising taxes are appropriate ways to manage our pocketbooks. It's time we bring our fiscal house back in order and get on with the business of helping our state reach its full potential.

Lastly, I want to share a brief example of how a budgetary debate can be handled with leadership over partisanship. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, newly elected Democrat Governor Mark Warner inherited a budget shortfall from a Republican Governor who did not disclose the severity of the budget crisis to either Warner or fellow Virginians. What was Warner's reaction? Cut spending, even if the cuts are unpopular ones until the budget is brought back into balance. Last week, Governor Warner stood on the steps of the state capitol in Richmond joined by the Republican and Democratic Leadership and announced that Virginians will need to work together and endure some difficult sacrifices in the short term, to ensure economic stability and progress in the long term. Needless to say, the citizens of Virginia approve of the job their legislators and governor are doing during difficult times and have every confidence that the state will head in the right direction.

It would be truly reflective of California's opportunity for a bright economic future if Californians could say the same of those who occupy our Governors Mansion and Majority Party in our Legislature. The good news is this November 5<sup>th</sup> we will each have that chance.